GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2130
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
RABIES AND SNAKE BITE DEATHS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per WHO report 63 per cent of the global rabies and snake bite deaths are in India and the people affected are agriculture labourers, women, children and infants;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the number of deaths registered during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance for the said treatment to various Stales; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS):

(a) and (b) As per WHO report, globally 55000 deaths occur due to rabies with 56% of the deaths estimated to occur in Asia. It is estimated that 20,000 rabies deaths occur in India. 40% of the cases occur in children below the age of 14 years and 80% of these deaths are estimated to occur in rural areas. As per the compiled data based on the information received from the State Governments, the number of deaths reported due to snake bite in the country is 1502 in 2005 and 814 in 2006. The number of deaths reported due to snake bites and rabies during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-! & ll.

(c) to (e) Health is a State subject, therefore, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure the availability of anti-snake venom serum and anti rabies vaccine serum in the health care facilities of the respective States. The Government of India extends technical support and guidelines for the prevention and management of the snake-bite and dog-bite cases. The use of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies vaccine by intra dermal route has recently been approved so as to economise the vaccination cost. The anti-snake venom serum and anti rabies vaccines are procured by the State Governments directly from the manufacturing units.